



Board of Drainage and Flood Control
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA OF JULY 22, 2025
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mr. Reitz at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Board members present: Ms. Awig, Mr. Fanning, Mr. Ford, Mr. Gontkovsky, Mr. Reitz, Mr. Scott, Mr. Weaver

Board members absent: Mr. Balog, Mr. Cleveland, Mr. Devries, Mr. Loparo, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Winkel

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Fanning moved, seconded by Ms. Awig, to approve the minutes of April 22, 2025. Motion approved 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Mills Creek Flood Control Basin Project Update

Mr. Reitz said this project is moving forward. The proposed new culvert under Cypress Avenue has been added to the road project for the Cypress Avenue Extension project. This change will not route more water into the Mills Creek area but will work well with the contractors already being onsite for construction work. Bramhall Engineering has submitted a proposal for additional services which is under review. The PTI with EPA has expired and needs to be resubmitted, but this should be a straightforward process to get it reapproved.

Fortune Ditch Update

Mr. Reitz said this project is being administered by the Lorain County Community Development Department. There is a property owner access issue which is currently being decided by the courts. The design is complete and ready for bids once the ruling is made.

Chestnut Road Bridge Replacement Update

This project is complete and was successful. Mr. Reitz appreciated everyone's patience during the project.

Maddock Road Culvert Replacement Update

Mr. Reitz said there are several issues relating to punch list items that need to be repaired by the contractor. The contractor was scheduled to come out today, but it is an ongoing discussion to close out the project.

SR 83 Culvert over Phelon Ditch Update

Mr. Reitz said the design portion of the project has been awarded to K.E. McCartney Engineers for the design of a three-sided culvert replacement. This project is anticipated to go out for bids in early 2026. There should be minimal downtime as the culvert is delivered and installed. The intent is to save the old sandstone blocks for Public Works to use in other beautification projects.

Sugar Ridge Road Bridge over Ridgeway Ditch Update

Mr. Reitz said this project is being funded by the Lorain County Engineers office. The County has secured funding and will seek design services in the fourth quarter of 2025. Construction is anticipated for 2029/2030.

Storm Sewer Replacement/Extension South of Crossing at French Creek on SR 83

Mr. Reitz explained that the line out to French Creek and along the frontage of The Crossings Subdivision has been installed. The city is working with the property owner to the south to make the final connection for the Hamptons storm connection into the new pipe. The turn lane construction should begin next week as well.

Bridge Replacement over Mills Creek on Center Ridge (SR 20)

This project is ongoing. The eastbound section of culvert and the approach slabs have been poured and the contractor should be moving on to do the westbound lane soon. Mr. Reitz appreciated everyone's patience during the construction, especially since rush hour traffic has been impacted by the traffic control device.

NEW BUSINESS

Service Department Review of Ditch Maintenance

Mr. Ford reviewed a few projects that they have been working on since the last meeting. Approximately 400 feet of trees were removed along Batner Ditch next to Liberty School. Most of the trees were growing through the fence and in the ditch. The fence will be reinstalled ten feet from the previous location to give the Public Works Department room to maintain the ditch. Photos showing the erosion happening along the side of the ditch where the houses are.

The Meyer Ditch to Main Ditch and their tributaries off of Case Road were cleaned, approximately 2,373 feet of ditching. Trees, brush and overgrowth were removed from the setback area in the maintenance easement of the ditch. Public Works is working with TC Energy where the main gas transmission line runs under one of the culverts and some other structures that need to be replaced in the area.

A sink hole was called in on North Barton Road. They found a collapsed storm sewer pipe that caused the sink hole. Twenty feet of 42-inch ADS pipe had to be replaced to complete the repair.

Mr. Ford reviewed some recently completed projects. The Taylor Parkway ditch project is completed. It seems to be helping significantly with the drainage in the area. The Slater Ditch main was completed. Reinspections have been done and the developer near the Atlantic-Harbor area will be installing silt fencing south of where the work was done to protect the ditch and fix some of the issues found.

The hi-fi sensors were installed. Two were installed a little too close to the bridge, leading to inaccurate readings. The sensors were readjusted and Mr. Ford is now working on collecting elevation points in the areas of the sensors so they can pick up the water level as it rises and notify them.

Stormwater Ordinance Updates

Mr. Reitz said the city is working on updates to the stormwater ordinances to address items found during an audit by the EPA. These updates will include long-term maintenance requirements for the Best Management Practices for developments. The city's past practice has been to ask this of developers, but it will be required by ordinance as well. Discussions have been had with developers to require interconnecting drains proposed throughout new subdivisions installed in common areas and not located on individual lots so the HOA has control over them and not individual property owners. Penalties will be increased for illicit discharges. The pollution of concern in the city is the total phosphorus, so there will be public outreach regarding best fertilizing methods. The City is also updating the SWMP for the Public Works site to account for new EPA rules addressing the storage of road salt. Three ordinances will be going to City Council for approval soon and Mr. Reitz will be working with the Public Works department to make the required changes for the city sites. Mr. Reitz will also work with Lorain County Public Health to follow up on some issues regarding outfall testing.

He commended the Public Works Department for all of the work they do throughout the city, including ditch cleaning and maintenance, because there are a lot of other communities that do not do that. The water flowing into the city is out of our control, but the department does a great job taking care of what they can.

Mr. Reitz will be working with the Communications Manager to do more formal public outreach in the newsletters. Topics important for residents to be aware of, such as how to properly take care of dog waste and proper lawn care techniques, will be covered. The Public Works Department can do a lot of projects throughout the city to maintain the flow, but the residents need to help by not hindering their efforts by doing such things as putting leaves in the ditches and allowing vegetation to grow that prevents the flow of water. HOAs are required to do inspections of their stormwater facilities and submit reports to the city every five years, but some need to do it more frequently.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Argo, 5620 Mills Creek Lane, asked about the timing for the Mills Creek project. Mr. Reitz said they are working through some issues with the gas line but anticipate going out for bid in early 2026. Some TC Energy requirements need to be met in the design plans and the EPA permit needs to be reissued. Mr. Argo asked if the bridge over the creek on Center Ridge Road was widened, MR. Reitz said it was.

Mike Russo, 5192 Manchester Circle, asked if the city plans on doing anything with the land behind Manchester Circle by the high-tension wires. He would like a retention pond installed to take water from the creek when it floods. He said the water backs up when there is two inches of rain and has to get a pump out to prevent his home from flooding. He thinks the basin would help resolve upstream problems as well. He would like to know if the city is looking into this idea. Mr. Reitz said he would send Mr. Russo the plans for the Mills Creek project which will include a series of basins that should help his situation.

Linda Jones, 5611 Mills Creek Lane, explained that she had 14 inches of water in her ranch home in 2014. She did not have flood insurance because it was not in the flood zone. She still lives in the home but is very anxious every time it rains. The work the Public Works Department did last year where the two creeks meet was great and has helped a lot. She wanted to know when the Boulder Retention project would start so she can make plans. Mr. Reitz explained that the city had difficulty getting approval from the Army Corps of Engineers due to the wetlands involved. The towers also had some encroachment

Board of Zoning and Building Appeals
MINUTES OF JULY 22, 2025



issues that needed to be addressed during the design phase, which took longer than anticipated. Mr. Gontkovsky pointed out that the Boulder Retention project is the same as the Mills Creek project.

Greg Fanning expressed concerns regarding trucks continuing to use the bridge on Sugar Ridge Road. If construction starts in 2029, he wanted to know what the plans are to maintain the bridge during that time. Mr. Reitz explained that the Lorain County Engineer's Office is getting the design ready for the bridge project now and they're continuing to monitor the bridge. Once the design is ready and money is available, work can be done. He clarified that the construction will be done no later than 2029. Mr. Gontkovsky added that the state's fiscal year actually starts in July, so it could be no later than July 2028.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.



Joe Reitz, Chair



Nicole Rambo-Ackerman, Acting Secretary

10-29-2025

Date

The next Board of Drainage and Flood Control regular meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.